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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

CYGAN, MICHAEL T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2856

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/826,575

Applicant(s)

LOOMIS ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Cygan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-26 and 32-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-26 and 32-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 November 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 18 November 2002. These drawing changes are acceptable.
2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the mylar bag and laminated structure must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5, 9-14, 17-20, and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the OSHA Irritant Smoke Protocol (OSHA) in view of U. S. Patent Number 3,834,241 (Garren '241). OSHA discloses a

testing apparatus comprising a bulb (i.e., a pump) and a container portion (smoke tubes) having frangible ends, an outlet, and containing a chemical substance such as stannic chloride (SnCl_4) producing an "irritant smoke" upon exposure to air. The apparatus produces smoke used to check for leaks in equipment such as face seals, the smoke carrying an irritating scent noticeable by the equipment wearer. OSHA further discloses providing such an apparatus, storing a chemical having a selected scent in the apparatus prior to use, breaking an end portion, causing a chemical reaction between the chemical and air, and operating a bulb to start a smoke test, and directing the smoke outward of the container and towards equipment such as a face seal. The smoke is visually observed as the test operator visually directs the smoke in three circumferential passes at a specified distance from the face seal. See page 227.

OSHA teaches the claimed invention except for an integral tube-pump design and the method of forming that design. Garren '241 teaches that it is known to assemble and use plastic tube-pump integral pipettes wherein the pump is seamlessly joined to the tube (Figures 1-3) in place of glass/rubber bulb pipettes (columns 1-2) to form a substantially permanent structure. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form an integral plastic pipette and use an integral plastic pipette as taught by Garren '241 in place of the two piece pipette disclosed by OSHA, since this would allow operation of

the protocol without danger of untimely glass breakage, reduced cost, and reduced assembly time (column 1, line 48 through column 2, line 17).

4. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the OSHA Irritant Smoke Protocol (OSHA) in view of U. S. Patent Number 3,834,241 (Garren '241) as applied to claims 1, 17, and 22, further in view of U. S. Patent Number 5,073,347 (Garren '347). OSHA teaches the claimed invention except for the plastic being low-density polyethelene, or may be two different materials for bulb and tube. Garren '347 teaches the composition of a plastic pipette being low-density polyethelene or two different materials for bulb and tube (column 9. lines 41-65). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use low-density polyethelene or two different materials for bulb and tube as taught by Garren '347 in the invention taught by OSHA, since Garren teaches that such materials are inexpensive and resistant to contamination and breakage during transportation (column 1, lines 38-51).
5. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over OSHA in view of U.S. 3,834,241 (Garren '241) as applied to claim 1, further in view of Rodrigues (US 3,938,392). OSHA in view of Garren '241 discloses a testing apparatus comprising a bulb (i.e., a pump) and a

container portion (smoke tubes) having frangible ends and containing a chemical substance producing an "irritant smoke" upon exposure to air.

The apparatus produces smoke used to check for leaks in equipment such as face seals. See page 227. OSHA teaches the claimed invention except for an integral tube-pump design having a finger hole in the pump area. Rodrigues teaches the provision of a finger hole in a flexible plastic pipette bulb (Figure 1) which is used as an improvement over the known glass/rubber two piece bulb (column 1, lines 5-30). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a finger hole as taught by Rodrigues in the invention taught by OSHA in view of Gerren, since this would allow operation of the protocol without danger of untimely glass breakage (see Rodrigues column 1, lines 11-12) or human injury (see OSHA page 277 lines 6-10) caused by operation of a two piece system having a glass component.

6. Claims 8, 16, 21, 32-46 and 52-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the OSHA Irritant Smoke Protocol (OSHA) in view of U. S. Patent Number 3,834,241 (Garren '241) as applied to claims 1, 17, and 22, further in view of U. S. Patent Number 3,840,009 (Michaels). OSHA teaches the claimed invention except for the composition of the device being a laminate of two distinct material layers, one of which being a flexible (low-density) polyethylene, the other

comprising a material which may be mylar (an inert, low-permeability material). Michael teaches a vapor delivery device in which the plastic pump and tube are formed of polyethylene laminates, one of which may be a polyethylene-Mylar laminate. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use polyethylene laminates including a polyethylene-Mylar laminate as taught by Michael in the invention taught by OSHA to form the casing material, since this will achieve both flexibility and substantial impermeability (see Michaels column 7, lines 49-52 and column 8, lines 1-7) of the device.

7. Claims 36, 48, 49, 51, 58, 60, and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the OSHA Irritant Smoke Protocol (OSHA) in view of U. S. Patent Number 3,834,241 (Garren '241) as applied to claims 1, 17, and 22, further in view of U. S. Patent Number 5,302,344 (Perlman). OSHA teaches the claimed invention except for the packaging of a pipette in a laminate bag. Perlman discloses laminate metal foil packaging film for wrapping pipettes; see column 8, lines 1-39. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a laminate packaging film as taught by Perlman in the invention taught by OSHA to package the pipette, since Perlman teaches that the laminates provide a sterile storage which prevents contamination prior to use.

8. Claims 50 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the OSHA Irritant Smoke Protocol (OSHA) in view of U. S. Patent Number 3,834,241 (Garren '241) and in view of U. S. Patent Number 5,302,344 (Perlman) as applied to claims 36 and 58, further in view of U. S. Patent Number 6,098,802 (Asa). OSHA in view of Garren and Perlman teaches the claimed invention except for the packaging of a pipette in a mylar bag. Asa teaches that mylar is an equivalent packaging material to metal foil for the purpose of maintaining sterile pipettes; see column 5, line 64 through column 6, line 8. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use mylar as the packaging material in the invention taught by OSHA in view of Garren and Perlman to form an inert packaging, since Asa teaches that mylar is an equivalent packaging material to metal foil (as taught by Perlman) for the purpose of maintaining sterile pipettes.
9. Claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the OSHA Irritant Smoke Protocol (OSHA) in view of U. S. Patent Number 3,834,241 (Garren '241) and in view of U. S. Patent Number 3,840,009 (Michaels) as applied to claims 36, further in view of U. S. Patent Number 3,938,392 (Rodrigues). OSHA teaches the claimed invention except for an integral tube-pump design having a finger hole in the pump area.

Rodrigues teaches the provision of a finger hole in a flexible plastic pipette bulb (Figure 1) which is used as an improvement over the known glass/rubber two piece bulb (column 1, lines 5-30). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a finger hole as taught by Rodrigues in the invention taught by OSHA in view of Gerren, since this would allow operation of the protocol without danger of untimely glass breakage (see Rodrigues column 1, lines 11-12) or human injury (see OSHA page 277 lines 6-10) caused by operation of a two piece system having a glass component.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. St. Amand (US 4,212,204) discloses a method of making a pipette having no bulb-tube seam. Kenney (US 5,173,266) discloses a safety pipette having a mylar wrapping.

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cygan whose telephone number is 703-305-0846. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6 M-Th, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on 703-305-4705. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3431.

MTC

MTC

December 17, 2002


DANIEL S. LARKIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER